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Chrono

22 August 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director/Current Intelligence  
Assistant Director/National Estimates  
Assistant Director/Research and Reports  
Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence  
Assistant Director/Operations  
Legislative Council

SUBJECT: Controlling Inaccurate Statements About the  
Situations in the Soviet Bloc

1. At a recent Deputies Meeting the Director expressed concern at the number of instances in the past year in which prominent people had made startling and many times inaccurate statements as to Soviet strength, weaknesses, etc. I have undertaken to prepare a study of means whereby this might be mitigated by having available on an annual basis an authoritative statement of the salient facts of life on the Soviet Bloc. I would appreciate your furnishing me by 23 September with any suggestions you have as to how this might be accomplished.

2. Merely to illustrate the possible types of solution I suggest the following might be worth at least consideration:

a. Have the Director or the White House furnish the Congress an unclassified version of the main elements of Soviet military strength, economic conditions and other relevant data.

b. Have the Director brief a joint session of the Foreign Affairs, Military Affairs and other pertinent committees of the Congress along the same lines.

c. Have the Intelligence Community furnish the offices of all senior executive officials, their public relations and press officers, etc., with a document of guidance as to what they should say

(1) Publicly

(2) In executive sessions and the like


25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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d. Have the President direct through NSC and other appropriate machinery that no member of the Executive Branch will make any statement on the capabilities of the Soviet Union or the Bloc without clearing it in substance with CIA. Note that this is the present arrangement for handling Soviet atomic matters and was instituted following the unfortunate series of contradictions between high ranking officials of the Government in October 1953.

  
ROBERT A. AMPT, JR.  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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ODDI:RAJr.:jb  
(19 August 1955)

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